

(12) United States Patent

Brown et al.

US 9.694.455 B2 (10) Patent No.:

(45) Date of Patent:

*Jul. 4, 2017

(54) PRECISION TRIPOD MOTION SYSTEM WITH SIX DEGREES OF FREEDOM

(71) Applicant: ALIO Industries, Inc., Wheat Ridge,

CO (US)

(72) Inventors: Nathan Lyons Brown, Littleton, CO

(US); Clement William Hennessey, Golden, CO (US); Daniel Fording Crews, Evergreen, CO (US)

Assignee: Alio Industries, Inc., Wheat Ridge, CO

(US)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this

patent is extended or adjusted under 35

U.S.C. 154(b) by 313 days.

This patent is subject to a terminal dis-

claimer.

(21) Appl. No.: 14/096,852

(22)Filed: Dec. 4, 2013

(65)**Prior Publication Data**

> US 2014/0151947 A1 Jun. 5, 2014

Related U.S. Application Data

- (60) Provisional application No. 61/733,822, filed on Dec. 5, 2012, provisional application No. 61/733,834, filed on Dec. 5, 2012.
- (51) Int. Cl. B23Q 3/04 (2006.01)B25J 9/00 (2006.01)(Continued)
- (52) U.S. Cl. B23Q 3/04 (2013.01); B25J 9/0045 (2013.01); **B25J 17/0266** (2013.01); A61B 17/62 (2013.01);

(Continued)

(58) Field of Classification Search

CPC B25J 17/00; B25J 17/0291; B25J 9/0045; B25J 17/0266; B23Q 3/04; B23Q 1/5462; Y10S 901/19; Y10T 74/20329 (Continued)

(56)References Cited

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

5,279,176 A 1/1994 Tahmasebi et al. 5,376,049 A 12/1994 Welschof et al. (Continued)

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EP	1027554	4/1999
EP	1637277	3/2006
WO	9920933	4/1999

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Xu, Xun. (2009). Integrating Advanced Computer-Aided Design, Manufacturing, and Numerical Control: Principles and Implementations-8.8 Parallel Machine Tools: A Little "Sidetrack". IGI Global.*

(Continued)

Primary Examiner — Larry E Waggle, Jr. Assistant Examiner — Mahdi H Nejad

(57)**ABSTRACT**

A precision tripod motion system is provided. The tripod motion system in one example includes a bottom plate including three spaced-apart bottom single-degree-of-freedom (SDOF) hinge portions, a top plate including three spaced-apart top three-degrees-of-freedom (TDOF) joint portions, with the top plate configured to receive a workpiece, three linear actuators pivotally coupled to the three bottom SDOF hinge portions of the bottom plate and coupled to the three top TDOF joint portions of the top plate, with each linear actuator of the three linear actuators configured to change length over a linear actuation span, and a rotator component and/or a positioning table affixed to the top plate and the bottom plate. The tripod motion system is (Continued)

